GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:62
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015
MGNREGS
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued directives to all the States to improve the implementation and outreach of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is taking steps to ensure 100 days guaranteed jobs to the poor, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether unemployment allowance is also paid to those who are not provided jobs under MGNREGS, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether instance of ghost workers collecting wages under MGNREGS have been reported and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken to improve delivery mechanism of MGNREGS in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement in reply to Parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 62 for 03.12.2015

(a): Ministry issues several advisories from time to time to States/UTs for effective implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). These advisories also pertain to assets generation. The matter is regularly reviewed in the Performance Review Committee meetings, Video conferences and Regional Review meetings. State specific reviews are also undertaken from time to time. Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors also visit various districts to oversee the performance of MGNREGA. During these reviews, the implementation aspects that need strengthening are identified including the areas for improvement in the quality of assets. The major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA are given in the Annexure.

(b): MGNREGA is a demand-driven wage employment programme. Not less than 100 days of employment are provided to registered workers upon receipt of their demand. The Government is actively engaged with State Governments in establishing systems that ensure provision of work as per demand, transparency and accountability. To generate awareness about the provisions of the Scheme and to provide adequate employment opportunities to rural households under MGNREGA, the States/UTs have been requested for the following:

(i) Initiate appropriate IEC campaigns including wall paintings for wide dissemination of the provisions of the Act.

(ii) Expand scope and coverage of demand registration system to ensure that demand for work under MGNREGA does not go unregistered.

(iii) Organize 'Rozgar Diwas' periodically to capture latent demand under the programme and to disseminate awareness about the provisions of the Act.

(iv) Formulation of a specific plan to include special categories of vulnerable people viz. persons with disabilities, primitive tribal groups, nomadic tribal groups, de-notified tribes etc.

(v) Organisation of workers into labour groups to ensure powerful demand-side pulls for improving performance of MGNREGA.

(c): As per Section 7 of the MGNREGA, unemployment allowance becomes payable if work is not provided within 15 days from the date of the application or the date from which work has been sought whichever is later. As per the database, there has been delay in provision of work in the generation of 1.65 crore persondays for which unemployment allowance of Rs. 137.89 crore becomes payable after due verification by the Block level officers. However, no State has reported payment of unemployment allowance.

(d): There have been complaints of irregularities in implementation of MGNREGA from many States. As per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned state Governments for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law. Detailed instructions by way of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with complaints have also been issued to all States/UTs. With a view to eliminate ghost beneficiaries and for a faster disbursement of wages, it has been decided to link the payments under MGNREGA to Aadhaar numbers. Under this, payments will be routed directly into the accounts of the beneficiaries using electronic system.

(e): Following modalities have been chalked out by Government for making payment to beneficiaries and prevent leakages in the implementation of MGNREGA:-

(i) All payments are mandatorily done through the Bank/Post Office accounts. Business correspondents have been employed by the Banks for speedy disbursal of payments to workers after biometric authentication.

(ii) With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tampering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced. For smooth fund flow, the electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) has been made mandatory from 1st April 2015.

(iii) Instructions have been issued directing all States to appoint Ombudsman at district level for grievance redressal. States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social Audit system in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 62 dated 03.12.2015
Major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA
Better planning and asset identification

â€¢ An Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE) /Mission Antyodaya has been launched in 2569 most backward blocks. This exercise has helped in identifying better quality assets that need to be created.

â€¢ For improving convergence with the line departments, and thereby to improve the quality of assets, the State Convergence Plans have been formulated.

Improving the quality of works

â€¢ The associated outcomes of each work are being recorded before taking up the work, and the same is being measured after completion of the work-thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.

â€¢ Ministry would conduct training of Technical Resource Persons from the States/UTs on different technical aspects of works which can be taken up under the scheme.

â€¢ The States/UTs have been asked to deploy State Quality Monitors to inspect the quality of assets created under the Scheme.

â€¢ States have been advised to engage technical assistants/barefoot engineers for better technical planning and supervision of works under MGNREG.

â€¢ Mobile Monitoring Systems have been introduced in 35000 GPs for better implementation of the scheme.

Better transparency, accountability and grievance redressal

â€¢ States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social audits of MGNREGS works in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. In order to support the States to conduct the Social Audits as laid down under the Rules, it has been decided to provide technical assistance of Rs.147 crore under a special Project.

â€¢ All States have been requested to set up an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) and appoint Ombudsman at the district level for grievance redressal.

â€¢ The Ministry has established a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for MGNREGA, which, inter alia, include visits of the Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors.

â€¢ With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tempering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced.

Fund management and avoiding delays in payment

â€¢ The Ministry has initiated Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) which directly credits the wages into the respective beneficiary's accounts using the core banking system. States have been asked to universalise the operationalisation of electronic Fund Management System to ensure smooth flow of funds from the State to the wage seekers and to eliminate delays in payment of wages.